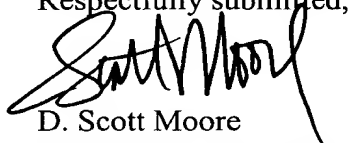


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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Final Office Action of May 15, 2006 (hereinafter "Final Action"). Applicants especially appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41-46, 49, and 50, which leaves independent Claim 48 as the only remaining rejected claim. In response, to advance prosecution and to facilitate an early allowance of the present application, Applicants have canceled independent Claim 48 without prejudice or disclaimer. In light of the cancellation of Claim 48, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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